

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MILES et al

Atty. Ref.: 36-1412

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of **PCT/GB99/02062**

Filed: **December 11, 2000**

Examiner:

For: **REQUIREMENTS MATCHING**

#2/0

KWS

425-01

* * * * *

December 11, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (AS ON THE AMENDED SHEETS)

Claim 4, line 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ and claim 1.

Claim 6, line 1, ~~or claim 5~~.

8. (Amended) A system according to Claim 7, wherein each broker of the system is a broker [according to Claim 1] having:

an input for receiving a user request message by means of said communications network, wherein a user request message includes an identifier for the sender of the request message and a specification of user requirements; and

routing means for forwarding a received user request message to a destination determined by said routing means and accessible by means of said communications network, wherein said routing means comprise:

*AB
JUL 20*